

REMARKS

Claims 14 and 18-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-17 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 14 and 18-21 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments are to incorporate already examined, allowable claim features into an independent claim; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants note with application the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claim 16. By this Amendment, claim 16 is canceled, and the allowable subject matter of claim 16 is incorporated into independent claim 14.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 2288660 in view of any of U.S. Patent No. 5,285,630 to Ansart et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,685,157 to Pandalai et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,216,651 to Ormerod; rejects claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,373,695 to Aigner et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,807,931 to Bodine Jr.; and rejects claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over GB 2288660 in view of Bodine, Jr. The rejections of claims 13, 15 and 17 are moot, and the rejections of the remaining claims are respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 16. Thus, claim 14 is patentably distinct from the applied references. Claim 18 is amended to depend from claim 14, and claim 20 is rewritten in dependent form to depend from claim 14.

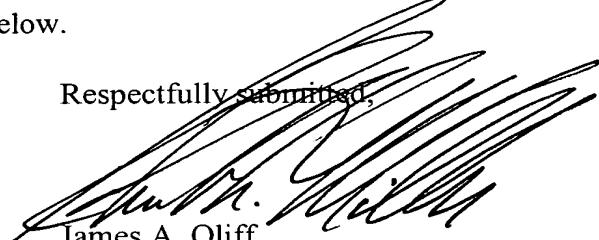
Therefore, dependent claims 18-21 are allowable at least for their dependence on allowable claim 14, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Claims 18-20 are amended to reflect their dependency from claim 14. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims and thus are non-narrowing. There is no effect on the patentability of these claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 14 and 18-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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